

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9675

INFO USDEL MBFR VIENNA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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S E C R E T USNATO 0318

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGS-1

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: THE NUCLEAR OPTION

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS SECDEF

REF: USNATO 7083

1. MISSION IN RFTL PRESENTED ITS RECOMMENDATIONS ON MOST EXPEDITIOUS WAY OF SEEKING NAC APPROVAL OF OPTION III ONCE THE US HAS DECIDED TO INTRODUCE IT. THIS MESSAGE PRESENTS ADDITIONAL MISSION THOUGHTS ON HOW TO PROCEED ON OPTION III IN NATO.

2. MISSION WISHES TO EMPHASIZE ITS RECOMMNDATION IN REFTEL THAT AT THE TIME THE US INTRODUCES OPTION III IN THE NAC, THE US ALSO INTRODUCE A DETAILED PAPER ON THE NUCLEAR OPTION AS WELL AS A PROPOSAL OF THE SPECIFIC GUIDANCE WHICH THE US WOULD WANT THE COUNCIL TO APPROVE FOR USE BY THE AHG IN VIENNA. MISSION BELIEVES THAT A DETAILED US PAPER FOR THE ALLIES IS ESSENTIAL TO EXPEDITIOUS NATO CONSIDERATION OF OPTION III. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE IN THE CASE OF ANY CHANGES IN THE ORIGINAL OPTION III. SUCH A PAPER WOULD ENABLE THE ALLIES TO SEE FROM THE OUTSET JUST WHAT THE US HAD IN MIND. IT WOULD REDUCE TO A MINIMUM THE PIECEMEAL SUBMISSION OF QUESTIONS BY THE OTHER ALLIES. IT WOULD HELP  
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PREVENT INITIAL MISCONCEPTIONS BY THE ALLIES ON VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THE US PROPOSAL WHICH THE US WOULD THEN HAVE TO SET ABOUT CORRECTING. THE US CAN SAVE A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF TIME IN ALLIED CONSULTATIONS BY HAVING A DETAILED PAPER AND DRAFT

GUIDANCE TO VIENNA READY FOR INTRODUCTION AT THE TIME THE US PROPOSES OPTION III TO THE ALLIES.

3. FOREIGN MINISTERS AT THE NAV MINISTERIAL, PARTICULARLY THOSE FROM SMALLER COUNTRIES, SPOKE IN TERMS OF EVENTUAL ALLIANCE STUDY OF OPTION III, AND MISSION EXPECTS THEY WILL NOT WISH NAV ITSELF TO CONDUCT THIS STUDY, BUT WILL WANT INVOLVEMENT OF MORE SPECIALIZED NATO BODIES. MISSION BELIEVES THE US CAN ACCELERATE NATO WORK ON OPTION III BY RECOGNIZING THIS FACT, AND BY MAKING IN THE NAV, AT THE TIME OF INTRODUCTION OF OPTION III, SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATION ON HOW SPECIALIZED NATO BODIES SHOULD PROCEED.

4. A RECOMMENDATION OF THIS SORT SHOULD PERMIT EXPEDITIOUS NATO STUDY OF OPTION III WHILE AT THE SAME TIME MAINTAINING ADEQUATE SECURITY. JORG KASTL, ASSISTANT SECRETARY GENERAL FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS, HAS PRIVATELY SUGGESTED TO THE MISSION A SCENARIO WHICH IN MISSION'S VIEW HAS CONSIDERABLE MERIT.

5. KASTL SUGGESTS THAT THE NAC, AFTER INITIAL EXAMINATION, TRANSMIT THE US PROPOSAL ON OPTION III TO SPC FOR CONSIDERATION OF POLITICAL ASPECTS AND THE PREPARATION OF DRAFT GUIDANCE TO THE AHG, FOR NAC CONSIDERATION. SPC WOULD IN TURN REQUEST MILITARY-TECHNICAL COMMENT FROM THE NPG STAFF GROUP, WITH DELEGATIONS REINFORCED BY MEMBERS OF MBFR WORKING GROUP (I.E. AN NPG MEMBER COUNTRY COULD CHOOSE TO BE REPRESENTED BY EITHER ITS REGULAR REP ON NPG STAFF GROUP, OR ITS REP ON MBFR WORKING GROUP, OR BOTH). THE USUAL FUNCTION OF NPG STAFF GROUP IS OF COURSE POLICY ANALYSIS RATHER THAN MILITARY-TECHNICAL COMMENT. HENCE THE DESIRABILITY OF REINFORCING NPG STAFF GROUP WITH MEMBERS OF MBFR WORKING GROUP.

6. USE OF NPG STAFF GROUP IN THIS MANNER WOULD AFFORD A FORUM WHERE ALLIES COULD IF NECESSARY DISCUSS ATOMAL INFORMATION IN BASE OF PORTUGAL. UNDER KASTL'S SUGGESTION, REINFORCED NPG STAFF GROUP WOULD DO A HIGHLY CLASSIFIED COMMENT ON THE US OPTION III PROPOSAL FOR USE IN SELECTED CAPITALS, AND A SANITIZED VERSION FOR TRANSMISSION TO SPC  
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AND MBFR WORKING GROUP. THE LATTER BODY WOULD IN TURN PREPARE ITS OWN COMMENT FOR SPC USE. MISSION BELIEVES LATTER STEP NOT ENTIRELY ESSENTIAL, GIVEN THE PROPOSED INPUT BY MEMBERS OF MBFR WORKING GROUP INTO NPG STAFF GROUP COMMENT, BUT THIS STEP WOULD MORE DIRECTLY INVOLVE NATO MILITARY AUTHORITIES. SPC WOULD THEN, BASED ON ITS POLITICAL DISCUSSION AND THE MILITARY-TECHNICAL COMMENT, AGREE TO DRAFT GUIDANCE FOR FINAL CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL BY NAC.

7. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE WASHINGTON VIEWS ON MISSIONS SUGGESTIONS IN REFTEL AND IN THIS MESSAGE AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME.  
BRUCE.

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF.

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